

# EBSA News

---



**U.S. Department of Labor**  
**Employee Benefits Security Administration**  
Washington, D.C.  
USDOL 03-27

For Immediate Release  
Sept. 24, 2003  
Contact: Gloria Della  
(202) 693-8664

## **U.S. Department of Labor, IRS and Pension Benefit Guaranty Corporation Extend Annual Reports Deadline After Hurricane Isabel**

**WASHINGTON--**The U.S. Department of Labor's Employee Benefits Security Administration (EBSA), the Internal Revenue Service and the Pension Benefit Guaranty Corporation today announced an extension of the deadline for filing Form 5500 and Form 5500-EZ annual returns/reports due to property damage, destruction and power outages that resulted from Hurricane Isabel.

"Hurricane Isabel severely damaged many businesses at a time when a majority of employee benefit plans are due to file annual financial reports," said Assistant Secretary of Labor Ann L. Combs. "In recognition of the hardship suffered by employers, plan administrators and other benefit professionals affected by the hurricane, it is necessary to give additional time to meet plan filing obligations."

The extension applies to plan administrators, employers and other entities located in areas directly affected as identified in IRS's Tax Relief at [www.irs.gov/newsroom/article/0,,id=113066,00.html](http://www.irs.gov/newsroom/article/0,,id=113066,00.html). The extension also applies to filers located outside the affected areas who were unable to obtain the necessary information from service providers, banks or insurance companies whose operations were directly affected by the hurricane.

Under this relief, Form 5500 series filings required to be filed on or between Sept. 18, 2003 and Nov. 18, 2003 are granted an extension until Nov. 18, 2003.

Filers entitled to this extension of relief should check Part 1, Box D, on the Form 5500 or Part 1, Box B on Form 5500-EZ, and attach a statement labeled "Hurricane Isabel 2003" explaining the basis for the extension being claimed under this relief. Filers who have additional questions may contact the EFAST Help Line at 1 (866) 463-3278.

###

---

U.S. Labor Department releases are accessible on the Internet at [www.dol.gov/ebsa](http://www.dol.gov/ebsa). The information in this news release will be made available in alternate format upon request (large print, Braille, audio tape or disc) from the COAST office. Please specify which news release when placing your request. Call (202) 693-7773 or TTY (202) 693-3911.